

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



# THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018 EDITION 4

## IN THIS EDITION:

GARDEN COMPETITION WINNERS • EXAMINATION SUCCESS • LBC ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN  
REMEMBRANCE DAY • STEM • SPORTS ROUND UP • CAREERS • CHARITY NEWS • MUSIC EVENTS  
SCHOOL MUSICAL • DEPARTMENTAL NEWS • AND MORE!

# A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



The Academy starts its eighth year with amazing personal success stories. Our Year 13 students who received their A-Level results in August were our founding cohort having started as bright-eyed Year 7 students.

So it is particularly apt that our first ever Oxbridge place has been secured by one of those students. Amari has gone on to Lady Margaret Hall at University Oxford to study Economics & Management.

This cohort also secured our best ever number of Russell Group university places. Umut, Nasir and Nadim all achieved places at UCL, Walid at LSE, Hadeel at SOAS and Lauren at Durham, to name just some of those achievements.

Our GCSE results are again strong and well exceed the national average across all measures. We are coping very well with the transition to the new 9-1 scale, which will see all subjects move away from the traditional A\*-E.

All these successes prove that the mindset we have instilled in our students when our gates first opened, and the ethos that runs throughout the Academy, make a tangible positive impact on student lives.

We welcomed our new set of Year 7 students in September and they have already become fully-fledged members of the HA community.

We are all pleased with the way they have thrown themselves into activities including the Year 7 residential.

I am very pleased to see how prominent charity has been over the last year. It is important to understand

the difference we can all make to the lives of other people by giving up just a tiny bit of our time.

Our STEM programme is growing steadily and I am excited to see it develop further this academic year. Traditionally, girls have been reluctant in taking up STEM subjects and careers; our programme will aim to address this imbalance.

The HA Garden, which the students extended in March, continues to be a positive asset. Students are not only learning skills, but are also finding it a place of refuge from daily stresses. Such is the impact it has made here, we have been chosen as the face of a new RHS campaign for wellbeing. The garden has also gained recognition by winning another national gardening competition.

That's just a small fraction of the many things which have happened this term. Within these pages you'll see the breadth of opportunities and experiences that our students are exposed to week in, week out. I hope you enjoy reading about them as much as I have. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

# OXBRIDGE SUCCESS AT A-LEVEL



HAMMERSMITH  
ACADEMY  
CELEBRATED  
OUTSTANDING  
OXBRIDGE AND  
RUSSELL GROUP  
SUCCESS OF THE  
FOUNDING COHORT.

Students celebrated their results and successfully achieving their university places.

This year's A-Level student cohort was the Academy's first set of Year 7 students when it opened back in September 2011.

They are the first to have gone through the Academy's full academic programme which embodies an 'anyone can achieve' ethos. Teachers and support staff alike were wishing them the very best in their results.

There were excellent results across the board with 45% A\*/B, 75% A\*-C and 100% A\*-E for all subjects at A-Level. There have been notable successes within English Literature, Mathematics, History, Sociology and Media in particular.



Amari became the Academy's first University of Oxford student.

## Individual Successes

Amari Drysdale attained A\*AA in Economics, Mathematics and Geography. He was accepted to study Economics & Management at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford. Amari said, "I am so happy that all that hard work has paid off, what you put in is truly what you get out. Thank you to Hammersmith Academy for supporting me throughout."

Umut Halil accomplished A\*A\*A in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics. He accepted his place at University College London to study Mathematics. Umut commented, "I've had so much support from the Academy. They have always been there for me."

Nadim Choudhury gained AAA in Psychology, Sociology and Economics and went on to study Social Sciences at University College London.

Walid Hasanzadah scored AAA in Economics, Geography and Mathematics. He headed to London School of Economics to study Geography with Economics.

Nasir Uddin achieved AAB in Geography, Sociology and Design

Technology and a Distinction\* in BTEC Information Technology. Nasir accepted his place at University College London to read Geography.

Lauren Daly attained BBB in English, Geography and Sociology and is now at University of Durham reading Archaeology. Lauren said "I cried when I saw my results. Thank you to all those teachers who encouraged me and gave me confidence."

Tyler Morgan achieved BBB in English, History and Psychology. She is studying at University of Southampton reading History.

Mr Kynaston said "We are all over the moon with the outstanding results our students have achieved. For our first Oxbridge place to be attained by this founding cohort, along with the large number of students have secured Russell Group university places, is a real testament to the Academy's approach to a well-rounded education. From day one we have instilled the belief that any student can succeed with hard work and a professional approach to their studies. I thank our staff for their unwavering dedication and to the parents who have supported their children and the Academy." ■

# GCSE RESULTS: NEW 9-1 SCALE

THE ACADEMY CONTINUES A STRONG GCSE RESULTS TREND IN ONLY ITS THIRD YEAR OF GCSE RESULTS AND THE SECOND WITH THE NEW 9-1 GCSE SCALE.



Happy Year 11 students show off their results alongside Mr Kynaston.

The strong positive results demonstrate that the Academy continues to exceed national averages at every measure. They are especially pleasing for a truly non-selective secondary school and reinforces the Academy's core belief that a student, regardless of their background, can attain results on par and even far exceeding the national average.

In particular, English Language and English Literature have seen tremendous gains in students achieving a 9-4 score. Triple Science, Design Technology and Drama have also scored impressively.

## Individual GCSE Successes

Chester Smith was our highest attaining student achieving a spectacular 8 grade 9s (the equivalent of a previous high A\* mark), one grade 8 and one grade 7. In addition Chester achieved an A\* Distinction grade in Further Mathematics. Chester's father said, "Chester has always been someone who has looked forward to school, he has never missed a day of school and that is a real testament to

Hammersmith Academy. He's always inspired by what he learns and he will take it with him."

Mohamed Mohamed scored an impressive 6 grade 9s and an A\* grade in Economics. Mohamed said, "I feel I have achieved something. To be able to make your parents proud is an amazing feeling! When I started at the Academy I didn't have any aspirations, they have given me a platform to dream. I'm looking forward to starting the Sixth Form at Hammersmith Academy."

Uzoma Nworu achieved 4 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s and a grade 6. He achieved an A grade in Economics.

Ezana Tareke attained 2 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s and 2 grade 6s. Ezana also attained a B and a C grade.

Sumaya Warsame accomplished a grade 9, 3 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s and a grade A in Design Technology.

Selina Simeonidis achieved a grade 9, 3 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s, 2 grade 6s, an A\*.

Mr Kynaston said, "These results show that the Academy is transitioning very well into the



Mohamed celebrates his results with his mother and Mr Kynaston.

new style 9-1 GCSE grading. Our students are yet again achieving above national expectations and this reflects their professional attitude towards their studies and their willingness to succeed. This is all the more impressive when you consider that the Academy is truly a non-selective school and it shows that any student is capable of high achievement in the right educational environment." ■

# LBC ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

IN SEPTEMBER, STUDENTS IN YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 TOOK PART IN LBC RADIO'S ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH LIVE ON AIR.



Reporter, Rachael Venables, spoke to students in the playground about their journeys to school, live on LBC Radio.

LBC presenter, Nick Ferrari, launched the 'Be Safe, Be Seen' campaign at the start of the new school year.

Recent government statistics showed that almost 3,000 children were killed or seriously injured a year, which equates to 16 children per school day. The majority of these accidents happened directly before or after school.

To help combat this worrying statistic, LBC's campaign aimed to give away thousands of reflective backpack stickers to students across the capital.

LBC visited Hammersmith Academy on the launch of the road safety campaign to speak to students in Year 7 and Year 8 about their experiences of travelling to and from school. Reporter, Rachael Venables, conducted the live broadcast from

the Academy's playground.

Year 7 student, Joseph, said "I walk most of the time and I know the route quite well, sometimes the cars go quite fast and it can be a little daunting having the cars go past so fast. I think the stickers are quite good now that it is getting darker as in the winter it is harder to be seen."

Malaak in Year 8 added, "At night the drivers can see the stickers and the light coming off it, which is a good thing."

For these students it was the first time they were appearing on live broadcasting and they presented their views brilliantly. ■

“ Sometimes the cars go quite fast and it can be a little daunting. ”

[Watch the report:](#)

Listen to the full LBC interview on our YouTube channel.

# HA REMEMBERS THE FALLEN

2018 MARKS THE CENTENARY OF THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR. THE ACADEMY REMEMBERED THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.



Year 10 students sold poppies visiting each of the tutor groups during tutor time.

This year's Remembrance Day is exactly 100 years since the end of the First World War.

Students across the Academy marked the occasion in various ways. Students in Year 10 spent a week visiting all the tutor groups as poppy sellers, selling the traditional paper poppy and the modern pin badges.

Mr O'Hana-James conducted an assembly which explored the importance and significance of Armistice and what the day symbolises for people not only in the

UK but across the globe. The poppy and its significance to those who lost their lives during the conflict was explained to students. There were moving readings of remembrance poetry and the playing of the Last Post. The assembly concluded with a 2 minute silence.

Year 7 student, Zavier, who is a member of Watford Football Club's Youth Academy, had a special task which focused on one of the First World War's forgotten heroes.

The project, called Tull100, is a project started by the organisation Big Ideas, to raise the profile of Walter Tull, the first man of black heritage to become an officer in the regular British Army. Walter became one of the first black footballers in Britain and was only the second professional black player in the Football League.

Watford FC came to the

Academy to film Zavier's presentation to his fellow students during tutor time. They also interviewed him and Head of Lower School, Mr Poulton.

The act of remembrance is more important now than it has ever been. As time passes with each generation, the act of remembrance becomes more significant to ensure the lessons of the past get passed on to the next generation. ■

“ There were moving readings of remembrance poetry and the playing of the Last Post. ”



Zavier spoke about the life of a forgotten hero which was filmed by Watford FC.

[Watch the video:](#)

Watch Zavier's dedication to Walter Tull on our YouTube Channel.

# CHARITY ROUNDUP



Students all dressed up in yellow for Children in Need.



Cancer Research UK's Race for Life and Summer Fair.

## THE ACADEMY'S CHARITABLE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN IN FULL SWING THIS YEAR. HERE'S SOME OF THE MAIN EVENTS.

The Academy and its community of parents and friends has been committed in keeping charity at the centre of student life.

Over the course of the last year, the Academy has supported a variety of charities. In total, the Academy community has raised an incredible £2,920.83! Here's a summary of the big events we have held.

### Sport Relief



In March, the Academy held a week of sporting activities to raise money for Sports Relief. The PE Department ran a rowing challenge to see how far the Academy as a whole could get. There were interhouse sport competitions which included tchoukball, a sport played in mixed teams of boys and girls. In total HA raised £577.20.

### Race for Life



On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July, the Academy held the annual race and summer fair to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Alongside the race were stalls selling food, tombola, face painting and a host of fair games. In total the Academy raised £856.12. We would like to thank all those who donated items for the raffles, including local businesses who were so generous.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning



The first charity event of this academic year saw staff hold a bake off and cake sale. There were some highly creative bakes. Ms Samuels recreated an Art subject token in shortbread and icing, and Ms Slav baked a stunning two-faced cake. The coffee morning raised a total of £109.89 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

### Children in Need



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November saw students dressed in yellow, stripes and spots to raise money for BBC's Children in Need. The event also coincided with wearing odd socks to stand up against bullying and celebrate individuality. Parents were very generous with their donations for the interhouse bake sale which was won by Berners-Lee. A massive £1,380.62 was raised for the event.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all those who have supported us and all our charitable events. ■

### Charity Totals

- Race for Life: £853.12
- Macmillan: £109.89
- Children in Need: £1,380.62
- Sport Relief: £577.20

Combined total: **£2,920.83**

# TOMORROW'S ARCHITECTS

MS FERRELL, STEM COORDINATOR, TELLS US MORE ABOUT HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY'S INVOLVEMENT IN RIBA'S NATIONAL SCHOOLS PROGRAMME.



The programme's pilot was documented by RIBA in a film for their website.

“ Being part of the RIBA National Schools Programme has been an exciting opportunity for our students to meet real, practising architects and get some insight into the dynamic world of architecture. ”

Over the last year, a group of Hammersmith Academy students have been taking part in a Royal Institute of British Architects pilot programme which aims to provide the next generation of budding architects with experience, knowledge and understanding of architecture as well as increasing the skills and confidence to become involved in debates surrounding it.

The National Schools Programme is delivered by professional architects. Yemi Aladerun is one of the Architecture Ambassadors who has been working with Hammersmith Academy students during the programme's pilot. She said about the scheme, "My ultimate aim for the partnership with Hammersmith Academy, is for the students to see the difference they can make to their surroundings, develop a sense of ownership of these spaces and start to engage with their built environment in truly meaningful ways."

Being part of the National Schools Programme has been an exciting opportunity for our students to meet real, practising architects and get some insight into the dynamic world of architecture. We have



The student's have been working on a project to regenerate their local area.

many aspiring architects at the Academy and they have really taken to these workshops. There have been passionate debates amongst students about how they see their local area developing. It is their future and it is their opinions that matter. We look forward to seeing them develop and succeed as our partnership with RIBA continues. ■

# ORBYTS PROJECT



This year's ORBYTS group from Hammersmith Academy at UCL for the launch of this year's project.

ORBYTS IS AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME IN WHICH SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS WORK ON ORIGINAL RESEARCH LINKED TO THE TWINKLE SPACE MISSION. MS HORN EXPLAINS MORE.

The Science Department are again taking part in this year's "ORBYTS" (Original Research By Young Twinkle Scientists) research group with selected Year 11 and 12 students.

The group attended the launch event at UCL where they met leading astrophysicists involved in the search for habitable exoplanets in the upcoming Twinkle Space Mission. Throughout this year our students will be supervised by physicist Dr Jon Holdship whilst using advanced physics programming. They will analyse his raw data from observations of a forming star to find out what compounds are present during the early stages. Our

students' research last year will lead to published work in which they will be credited, so watch this space for more exciting results later this year!

Twinkle has a list of target exoplanets that it will observe once in orbit. ORBYTS offers school pupils the chance to enrich our understanding of these new worlds by improving our knowledge of the molecules they are made of, their orbit and physical properties. This provides a unique opportunity for pupils to undertake cutting-edge science that has a meaningful impact on a future space mission.

Tutors typically visit school groups fortnightly to teach the undergraduate-level physics pupils will need for their ORBYTS project. Pupils get hands on experience of what is involved in scientific research and work closely with young scientists, challenging any preconceptions or stereotypes about who can become a scientist. In some cases, where the ORBYTS work is good enough and there are significant results, the pupils are named as co-authors on a paper in a peer-reviewed journal. ORBYTS also gives young scientists experience in supervising individuals and leading a research project. ■

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# LEGO LEAGUE



Students discussing a technical issue in space with Ms Ferrell, STEM Coordinator.

For the first time, Hammersmith Academy STEM Club have taken on the challenge of the first Lego League. The global competition challenges pupils to think like scientists and engineers. This year, the theme is 'Into Orbit'. The team of 10 students will choose and solve a real-world problem based on space travel. They will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using Lego Mindstorms technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game.

The team will be competing in a regional competition in January. ■

# BUSH THEATRE



Year 8 students with community elders at Bush Theatre on Uxbridge Road.

## MS DALE TELLS US ABOUT A COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT CREATED BY THEATRE MAKERS THAT STUDENTS TOOK PART IN.

Pupils in Year 8 were lucky enough this term to be involved in an outreach project with the Bush Theatre. Students went to a one-off workshop run by professional theatre makers which focused on generations and how issues of past and present can be explored in theatre. They were joined by community home elders who helped them discuss worldwide topics ranging from immigration and war to their most embarrassing moments.

This was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage in the wider community and broke down some of the barriers between the different generations. The workshop culminated in the opportunity to watch the Bush production called 'An Adventure' by Viny Patel which explored three generations of an immigrant family and the struggles that they faced here in the UK.

Year 8 student, Iskleada, who attended the workshop said about the experience, "The workshop and the play was amazing to be part of. It was really fun working

with the people from the old person's community group. We got to learn a lot about their past, their journeys and experiences. It was nice talking about different thoughts on songs and how life has changed from their time to ours. During the play we got to see them acting out the different techniques we were taught in drama. We saw the issues we discussed and the acting we learnt at school come together and it was overall an amazing trip."

We have worked with the Bush Theatre over a few years now and it is fantastic to see the links within a diverse community grow and develop. Look out for more opportunities over this academic year at Hammersmith Academy. ■



The community elders speaking with Year 8 students about their life stories.

# UNICORN THEATRE

UNICORN THEATRE IS THE UK'S LEADING PROFESSIONAL THEATRE DEDICATED TO PRODUCING INSPIRING WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. MS DALE REPORTS ON THE THEATRE TRIP.



GCSE Drama students outside Unicorn Theatre in central London.

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students went on an exciting trip in October to the Unicorn Theatre in central London. During this trip they watched an award winning production of 'The End of Eddy' based on the book 'En finir avec Eddy Bellegueule' by Édouard Louis. The play explores

the life of Edroue, a boy born into poverty in an isolated village in rural France, growing up amongst men and women living hard and violent lives. Bullied relentlessly for being gay, the story explores Eddy's struggle to understand who he is, who he might become, and of his fight to escape.

This excellent production, written when he was just 21, combined vivid storytelling with frank reflections on sexuality, class and power. It enabled our pupils to draw upon their knowledge of theatrical conventions and evaluate the performance's effectiveness as a whole.

A Year 11 pupil commented, "The trip was really exciting as we got to see live theatre in action, everything that we have studied and tried in a professional environment. I especially liked their use of 21st century technology such as TV screens to change character and create a big cast without many people on stage."

Pupils will now use this experience to help them in their written and practical work throughout their GCSE, building extremely important soft skills such as evaluation and communication of opinions. ■

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## SISTER ACT

THE ANNUAL MUSICAL IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR. THIS YEAR IT'S SISTER ACT BASED ON THE CULT 90S FILM.

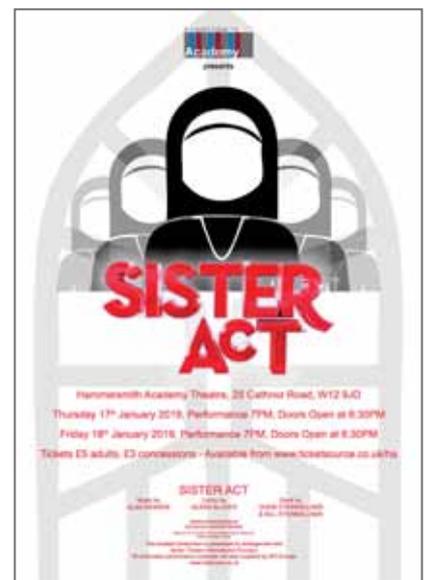
Deloris Van Cartier is a witness on the run from her murderous boyfriend. She hides in a convent but has to blend in with nuns, a far cry from her showbiz life. Their differences are put aside through a shared love of music as she helps her fellow sisters find their voices while rediscovering her own.

Students have worked incredibly hard on the show, rehearsing both after school and at weekends. So please come along and support their efforts.

Join us for what will be a night of feel-good comedy numbers based on the Hollywood hit.

Tickets are available to purchase from Ticket Source:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/HA](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/HA) ■



### Show Details:

Tickets - £5 adults, £3 concessions

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Doors Open 6:30PM for 7PM start.

# JACK PETCHEY



Iman in full flow, giving her speech about immigration, refugees and the media.

**THE JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT! CHALLENGE INSTILLS CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING. MR SMITH REPORTS ON THE COMPETITION.**

For the third year running, Hammersmith Academy has hosted the Jack Petchey SPEAK OUT! Competition for all Year 10 students; every student in Year 10 is taken off timetable for a full day to train with public speaking specialists, crafting their own speeches on any subject they wish, alongside practising their delivery skills.

Across the day, each member of Year 10 gave at least three speeches to their group – using the specialist coaching delivered by The Speakers Trust – on topics as diverse as

diversity, role models, Naruto and gender stereotyping. These speeches, whether moving or funny, personal or political, showed off the strengths of the Year 10 speakers brilliantly. Each student's speech was recorded, being used for the Speaking and Listening Endorsement in the English Language GCSE.

After the initial in-class competitions, ten HA finalists emerged; these students then took their speeches to the entire year group in a special assembly – delivering from the front of the theatre to a packed audience of students and teachers alike. At the end of the competition, Ameera and Iman were crowned the Hammersmith Academy SPEAK OUT! champions – each tasked with taking their speech to the West London finals in Phoenix Academy.

Iman's speech, exploring the complicated topic of immigration, refugees and media misrepresentation wowed judges at Phoenix, with her strong and confident delivery standing out amongst the finalists. Ameera's moving and personal speech, at times serious, at others playful, exploring the effects eating disorders can have was delivered to a rapt, silent audience. Both students did incredibly well, speaking in front of an audience of over 250 people. ■

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## DEBATING

**FOLCO IN YEAR 8 REPORTS ON THE START TO THE DEBATING SEASON.**

A group of Year 7 and 8 students had the chance to go to Godolphin & Latymer for a debating event.

When we arrived there was an assembly explaining the debating rules. After this we entered the room where we practised and then had the debate.

In the debate there were the proposition and opposition with three speakers for each side. The speeches were all three minutes long and all had thirty seconds protected

time where 'Points Of Interest' were not allowed.

In your speech you usually have your opening arguments and a summary. After a while spent in the room, we developed our arguments. The group did this by thinking about what the other team might say, so that we could rebut them, and to consider what we might add. We were the opposition so were arguing against lessons being made voluntary. We practised our speeches and

prepared. It was then time to start the debate. Our group did well but had less practice compared to the other schools who must have debated a lot previously considering how good they were. The debate was won by the other team, Godolphin & Latymer. The HA debating team will now be able to take part in many other debates as part of the London Junior Debating League with a variety of subjects; the banning of zoos, a second referendum, the impeachment of Donald Trump. ■

# BHM WINNERS



Black History Month competition winners with their gift voucher prizes.

This year at HA we created a competition based on Black History Month. Each key stage had a different challenge: KS3 and KS4 were asked to create a PowerPoint presentation or poster about someone they had

researched based on Black History Month. KS5 had to create an essay about the importance of key people in Black History Month. It was great to receive so many entries. ■

THE ACADEMY CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN OCTOBER. MS WILLIAMS TELLS US MORE.

**Congratulations to our competition winners!**

- Tula & Zoe (KS3 winner)
- Rebecca (KS4 winner)
- Annur (Sixth Form winner)

# CHAMBER CONCERT

MS SLAV, HEAD OF MUSIC, REPORTS ON THE AUTUMN TERM CHAMBER CONCERT WHICH SHOWCASED THE BEST STUDENT TALENT.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November saw the first in our termly series of Chamber Concerts. These intimate concerts take place on the mezzanine level, and are designed to provide an informal performance opportunity for students who have vocal and instrumental lessons. It is a great opportunity to perform in front of a small, supportive audience of friends and family who are there by invitation only.

This concert was an excellent start to the year with an eclectic mix of instrumental and vocal performances. Ayushi and Ted in Year 7 performed brilliantly after only being at Hammersmith Academy for half a term. We look forward to seeing how they progress over the rest of their time with us. All acts were professional and well prepared, but I'm not sure anybody was fully



The concert showcased a variety of instruments and vocal numbers.

prepared for the rollercoaster of a song performed by Dante in Year 11. His rendition of 'Michael in the Bathroom' brought the concert to a close with a bang!

Well done to all students who performed and thank you to all the parents and friends who came to support. Look out for the next one in the Spring term. ■

# HA FRONTS RHS CAMPAIGN

RHS SCHOOL GARDENING TEAM OF THE YEAR 2017 IS THE FACE OF A NEW CAMPAIGN TO GET PEOPLE GARDENING FOR WELLBEING.



Adrianna is interviewed by RHS for their campaign on gardening and wellbeing.

Research has found that gardening is beneficial for everyone's health and wellbeing. Gardening gives us a sense of responsibility which can help to boost our confidence and make us feel connected to the world around us. By working with nature, we can relax and enjoy living in the moment, feeling that we are making a difference.

At a time when mental health is increasingly being discussed in the mainstream media, the Royal Horticultural Society has launched a new campaign to combat this rise utilising the power of gardening.

Hammersmith Academy was chosen to lead the campaign, being recognised for its work with Hammersmith Community Garden Association and the use of the Academy garden to promote better health and wellbeing.

RHS spent a day in the summer term at the Academy and the care home next door where students have been volunteering, to film a promotional video to promote the campaign.

Year 10 student, Adrianna said, "I think when you are gardening you take your mind off things and you tend to take your mind off any troubles you may have."

Ellis added, "In a classroom you feel like you're more on edge, but when we come out to the garden, there's a calming atmosphere."

Dr Kirwan, Horticulture and Community Outreach Coordinator, congratulated the students saying, "The students have taken such ownership of this because they have done it from scratch. Everything you see in the garden they have done themselves." ■

“When you are gardening you take your mind off things.”

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# CULTIVATION STREET WINNERS

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY WINS ANOTHER GARDENING AWARD. DR KIRWAN EXPLAINS WHY THE ACADEMY WERE CHOSEN AND WHAT THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT ON.



Gardening students receiving the winning cheque from TV gardener David Domoney.

“The judges loved how much this garden engaged older students that may otherwise not have an opportunity to be involved in gardening.”

The Academy is delighted to have been crowned school winners of Cultivation Street, a national award founded by celebrity gardener, David Domoney.

This is the second major gardening award the Academy has won, having been crowned winners of RHS School Gardening of the Year 2017.

The Academy was chosen for its dedication to gardening and the level of involvement students have shown in it, turning what was a concrete area into an inspirational garden.

The garden also more than demonstrates its worth as a space to teach students about how to garden and the importance of nature.

Cultivation Street said, "The judges loved how much this garden engaged older students that may otherwise not have had an opportunity to be involved in gardening. Many of the students do not have gardens as they are so close to central London, and so the garden gives them the rare chance to get outside in nature."

David Domoney visited the Academy in September to announce the winning team, which came as a surprise to Dr Kirwan and the

students. They were presented with a cheque of £2,500 to spend on further developing the garden. Competition sponsors, Calliope, awarded the team with 100 geraniums to plant out in the spring.

On the back of the award, students have been offered horticultural training from Hammersmith Community Gardens Association and support to develop their business and finance skills as they sell their own produce and fund the garden for therapy.

Dr Kirwan was asked what he would do with the money, "I am over the moon that we have been declared the winners. The students have all worked so hard during tutor time and even at weekends, so they really deserve the recognition.

The £2,500 will help us transform the school entrance. We will be planting new shrubs and fruit trees which will improve the school environment and extend our garden so that even more students can benefit from it. Thank you to all students, staff and parents who have helped support the garden project." ■

# SIKH TEMPLE VISIT

LEARNING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WORSHIP AND HOW IT FORMS PART OF THEIR CULTURE IS IMPORTANT IN BECOMING GLOBAL CITIZENS. MS WILLIAMS TELLS US ABOUT THE TRIP.



Year 9 students inside the Sikh Temple in Ealing.

At the start of November, students studying GCSE RE visited a Sikh Temple in Ealing to get a firsthand experience of the Sikh faith.

Iman in Year 9 explained, "I learnt about the different types of weapons Sikhs use as part of their worship. For example, Sikh men have a metal ring in their Turban. It was a beautiful experience and I enjoyed learning deeply about the religion."

Student Abdiwahab added, "The people in the Sikh temple were very kind and generous. I learnt that they pray three times a day and that they are very charitable people."

The students would like to thank the temple for being so welcoming and sharing their worship practices with our inquisitive students. ■

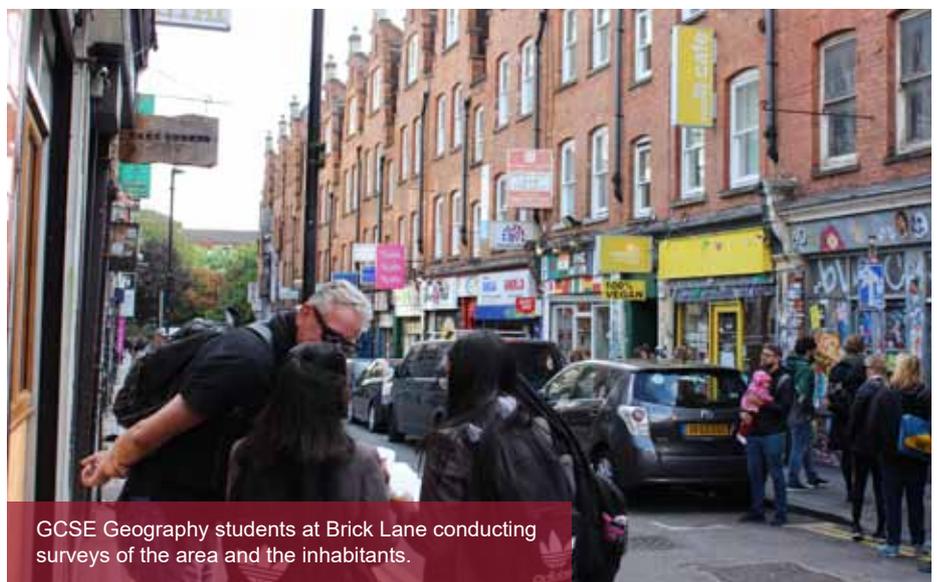
# GEOGRAPHY TRIP

YEAR 11 STUDENTS CONDUCT FIELDWORK IN BRICK LANE.

GCSE Geography students have been studying urban geography as part of their course. Students must complete a compulsory fieldwork element before sitting the exams in the summer.

In September, the Year 11 Geography students travelled to Brick Lane and Spitalfield Market area to carry out surveys about the people and the area.

On returning to school the students had to collate and analyse the response data and write up their assessment to be submitted as coursework. ■



GCSE Geography students at Brick Lane conducting surveys of the area and the inhabitants.

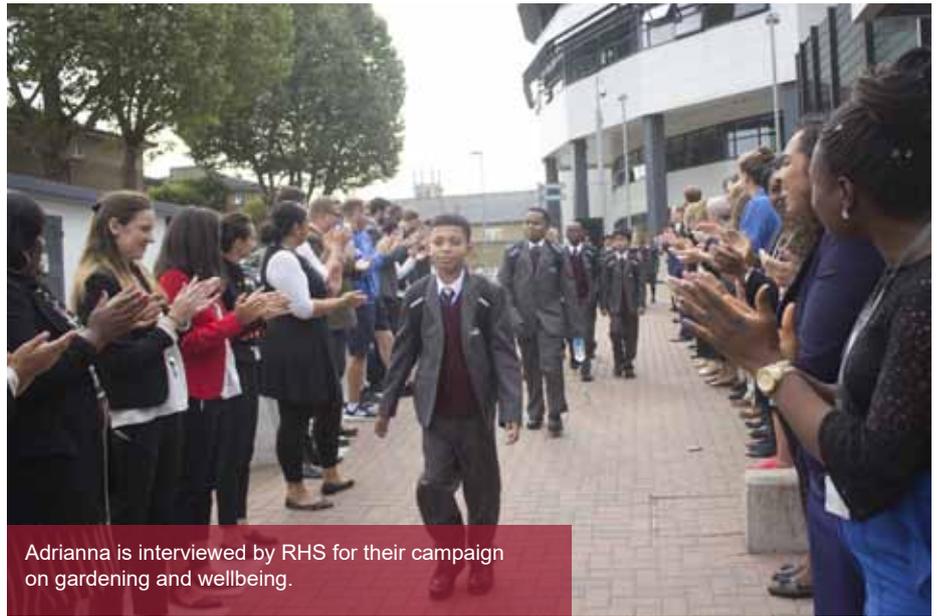
# YEAR 7'S FIRST WEEK

## THE ACADEMY WELCOMES NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS.

This September we welcomed the Academy's eighth group of Year 7 students through the school gates.

They started their first school day 24 hours earlier than all the other students to give them time to settle and acquaint themselves with each other.

Their first day ended with an HA tradition where Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, conducted a tie-ceremony and welcomed them as official members of the HA community. They left gates to the sound of a 'clap-out' from all the staff. ■



Adrianna is interviewed by RHS for their campaign on gardening and wellbeing.

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## LONGRIDGE

ON FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, YEAR 7 STUDENTS TRAVELLED TO LONGRIDGE ACTIVITY CENTRE IN BERKSHIRE. MR POULTON, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL, RECALLS THE DAY.

“ Our first term at HA has been so much fun, we are having new experiences and so many more opportunities. ”

Learning to work collaboratively is an important skill which students must develop in order to excel both within the Academy and in the wider world of university and work.

To give our Year 7 students the best possible start at HA we took them to Longridge Activity Centre where they spent the day working in teams to complete challenging activities.

Students had to help each other to ascend a giant aerial ladder, work as a team to defeat the opposition in a laser tag battle and encourage each other to finish an aerial assault course. Students have really enjoyed their start at HA. Flora and Lola said, "Our first term at HA has been so much fun, we are having new experiences and so many more opportunities."

The Year 7s should be proud of the skills they have gained. They have shown just how supportive of each other they can be when focusing on the task at hand and this will prove to be an important skill in the years to come. ■



Year 7 students attacking the abseiling wall.

# HA EXPLORERS

FOUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS TRAVELLED ACROSS THE GLOBE ON BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY EXPEDITIONS IN THE SUMMER. THE ACADEMIST CAUGHT UP WITH THEM WHEN THEY RETURNED.

In the last academic year The Academist followed the story of four students who were selected to represent the Academy on two separate British Exploring Society expeditions. Jayde and Noor travelled to the Peruvian Amazon, whilst Annur and Tahir ventured to the Canadian Yukon.

The intrepid young explorers flew out in the summer holiday with their fellow teams to conduct scientific and geographical research as well as connect with local communities.

Since returning, the explorers have been busy promoting the scheme to the new Year 12 students who will be applying for placements on expeditions heading out in summer 2019. Here are their personal stories.

## Noor's Experience

Being part of the Amazon expedition in summer 2018 enabled us to become advocates for change and greater opportunity for young people in our immediate community.

We were able to develop as individuals and grow as global citizens. Taking part in such an extraordinary experience has pretty much changed our day to day lives.

Developing social skills has given



Noor alongside her fellow student explorers in the Peruvian Amazon.

us the confidence to grab any opportunity that arises, be that at school, applying for universities or in the outside world.

We would like to thank Miss Harrowes and Hammersmith Academy for the amount of support we have received in raising the funds towards the expedition: we simply wouldn't have been able to do it without you!

The biggest lesson I have taken away with me is to not let anyone

or anything stop you from doing whatever you want in life. **JUST GO FOR IT!**

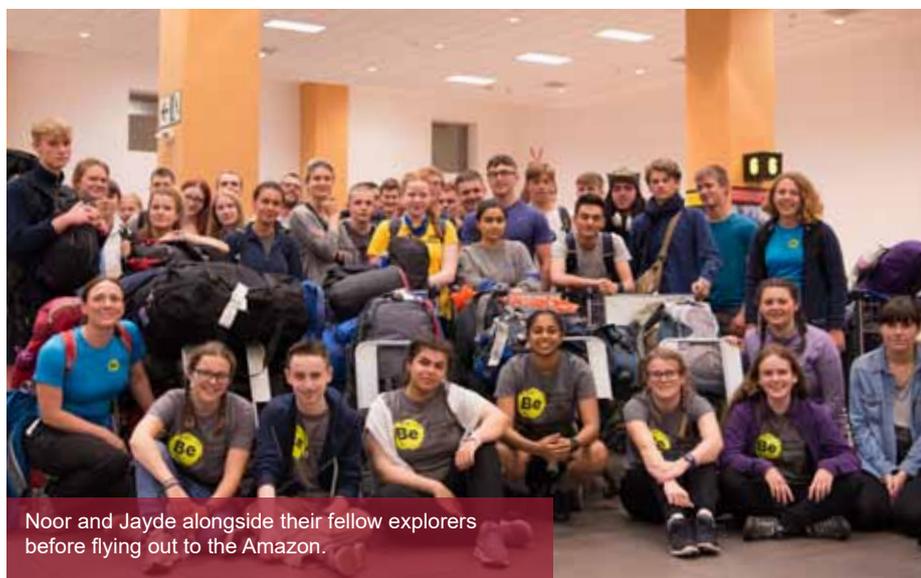
## Jayde's Experience

Having the opportunity to visit a remote part of the beautiful Peruvian Amazon alongside fellow student, Noor, is an experience I'll cherish and remember forever.

Building friendships and gaining much-needed independence in such a new environment was difficult, but the skills and confidence we now have as a result will be hugely beneficial, not only in University life, but in everything that follows.

At times it was both physically and mentally draining, but seeing monkeys, stunning birds, caiman, and night after night of incredible sunsets over the river makes the jungle a place we both miss dearly.

Noor and I are extremely grateful for the support we had from the HA community for helping to make this happen, along with friends and family. If there is an opportunity you aren't sure of or you are nervous about, **GO FOR IT!** You don't know how amazing it may be. ■



Noor and Jayde alongside their fellow explorers before flying out to the Amazon.

# US POLITICS AT HA

FORMER SENATOR, TED KAUFMAN, GAVE OUR A-LEVEL GOVERNMENT & POLITICS STUDENTS A MASTERCLASS IN US POLITICS.

Sixth Form Government and Politics students were treated to unique political insight from one of USA's senior politicians.

Mr Kaufman is a member of the Democratic Party. Having served as Joe Biden's Chief of Staff Assistant under the Obama administration, Mr Kaufman was able to talk candidly about his time in politics.

Students were left fascinated by his description of the US political system which included a vivid account of the two chambers of the House of Representatives and Congress.

His reflection on the current presidential administration really captivated the students who had many questions about the state of US politics, its international relationships



Former senator, Ted Kaufman, treated Government & Politics students to an in depth political discussion.

and how it is perceived globally.

Mr Kaufman said of the event, "It was a wonderful, intelligent and enjoyable

conversation. They are clearly getting an excellent education on political studies and how it functions in the modern world". ■

## STUDENT LEADERS



The Sixth Form Student Leaders have high aspirations for the year ahead.

We are all delighted to have been given this opportunity to represent the Sixth Form community and become role models for the younger students. To get to this position was a challenging journey as the process had many stages and there was a list of amazing candidates.

It has been such a privilege and an honour to have been chosen as

Head Leaders/Deputy Leaders by the students and teachers at HA. We intend to help all students settle in and encourage them to work to the best of their ability. As the Sixth Form Leadership Team we look forward to working together, to represent the Academy and ensure everyone's experience in HA is enjoyable and memorable. ■

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS, HANNA AND SELMA, WILL BE WORKING AS HEAD LEADERS AND SHANIA AND MOHAMED WILL BE WORKING AS DEPUTY LEADERS THIS YEAR.

SPOTLIGHT: SIXTH FORM

# CAREERS WEEK

THE LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER WAS DEDICATED TO CAREERS FOR ALL STUDENTS ACROSS THE ACADEMY.

A professional mindset is a key tenet of the Academy's ethos. This includes developing a career driven focus from as early as Year 7.

The careers week timetable included a series of talks conducted by professionals from Immediate Media and dunhumby, two of our career education partners. The final day of the week saw all students coming off their normal school timetable to take part in a 'Drop Down Day' of career related activities.

Students in Year 7 focused on honing professional teamwork skills through a number of challenges set up in the Sports Hall. They also completed their student passports which details personal targets students set for themselves.

Year 8 and 9 students took part in a Career Speed Networking event which saw 30 professionals from a large number of industries talking and answering questions for eight minutes, before moving on to the next professional.



Students during the Speed Networking Event had eight minutes to speak with each professional.

Work experience was the focus for Year 10 students. They conducted research for sourcing their work placements and on how best to apply. Their day ended with an interview master class to prepare them for their first interviews.

Year 11 students looked ahead to Sixth Form and making the right

A-Level choices, which will be vital for university applications.

The careers week was a great success with students feeling more informed and confident about their next steps. A big thank you to all the professional and corporate volunteers who made the week so effective. ■

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## HA REWARD SHOP

MR FLITTON, REWARDS COORDINATOR, INTRODUCES THE NEW REWARD SHOP WHICH OPENED IN SEPTEMBER.

This academic year HA introduced a new Rewards Shop where students can purchase items with the points they have collected over the course of every half term. The shop is open six times a year.

The points are recognition of their achievements and effort that they have put in to their lessons, homework and conduct. Students are able to collect 'Overall Conduct Points' which is calculated by subtracting any 'Behaviour Points'

away from their total number of 'Achievement Points'.

Students are able to receive a maximum of six prizes over the academic year. The number and value of prizes that a student can achieve will increase if their 'Overall Conduct Points' increase in the positive direction.

Students should contact Mr Flitton or their Tutor to see a copy of the shop catalogue when they are eligible to purchase their prizes. ■



# LEARNING AMBASSADORS

LEARNING AMBASSADORS HAVE A PROACTIVE ROLE IN MENTORING AND SUPPORTING YOUNGER STUDENTS. THE STUDENTS EXPLAIN.



Year 10 Learning Ambassadors were chosen for their ability to help others and their leadership skills.

## Anis

I'm interested in leadership because I believe having a strong voice is key to improving and strengthening our school environment. I'm confident, good at communicating with others and helping others out, which all make for a good leader.

As a Learning Ambassador, I will try my best to make sure that students' voices and opinions are heard and valued. I believe we can achieve many great things that will improve our school community for the better.

As the former Head Boy of KS3, and as part of many JLT teams across the years, I've gained lots of experience that will help me in this role as Learning Ambassador.

## Adriana

As a Learning Ambassador I will support and mentor students from KS3 and if possible the Year 9s. This will vary from helping with school work to supporting those who are going through a stressful time. Whatever it is, the Learning Ambassadors will always be ready to lend a helping hand.

Prior to this I was a part of the Media Mentors in KS3.

I am glad that I am a part of the Learning Ambassadors as I feel that it's nice to have not only the staff but also other students across the school being able to support those in need of help.

## Milach

I think leadership at school is important in allowing students to voice their opinions and ideas. It contributes to representing the students' general thoughts on matters. It's also important in groupwork as it allows tasks to be assigned and monitored quickly and efficiently, and allows the inclusion of everyone's ideas.

I think I make a good leader because I listen and include everyone's ideas to the best of my ability, and I am willing to contribute to individual and general aspects of school in order to make it an even better place to learn. I've done many groupwork tasks, some of which included working with other schools, that also helped to develop my communication and collaboration skills. In this role, I will be gathering students' opinions

through surveys, mentoring and helping out wherever I'm needed.

## Charlie

I'm interested in leadership because in school I believe that a student's voice is important and leadership allows student ideas to be heard through student ambassadors and other roles.

In my opinion, the qualities I have that make me a leader is mostly understanding. If I were a leader, I would allow everyone to have their voice heard. In my position as a student ambassador, I will focus on tuition and try to help out other students academically. I have had leadership roles in the past from primary like student council and head boy which will benefit me due to having these leadership roles before. I believe that being a role model is not about the successes you acquire but more to do with the failures you've been through. Anyone can be successful but those who have experienced failures really stand out.

# SPORTS ROUND-UP

THIS TERM HAS BEEN A TYPICALLY BUSY ONE FOR THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT. HERE IS A ROUND-UP OF ALL THE SPORTING NEWS.



Year 9 winners of the girls' 200m race which was fiercely contested as records were broken.

## Year 10 Football (Boys)

The Year 10 boys have returned this year with a very good attitude towards their football. The team selection process has been based on a combination of commitment to training sessions as well as attitude to learning in PE and games.

There has been a debut this year for Florent who is developing into a solid footballer. Elias, Michael, Camron, Rayan and Kevin have also been consistently good performers for the team. Results haven't quite gone our way with defeats to KAA (5-3), BDA (4-2) and Phoenix (2-0). Despite the results, Mr Beattie is enjoying the rejuvenated attitude of the Year 10 football team. Well done to all.

## KS3 Basketball (Boys)

It has been a positive season in the KS3 Basketball League. The introduction of new players, as well as a resilient attitude, has left the KS3 Team with a record of two Wins two Losses. Despite losing the first two games, the boys have put their early season form behind them to win their last two, with the last game a comprehensive 32 – 4 victory

over WLFS. It was pleasing to see debutants Samiullah (6 Points), Louis (4 Points 3 Assists) and Liam (2 Points 2 Assists) all contribute to the game. Overall, a pleasing start to the KS3 Basketball Season.

## KS4 Basketball (Boys)

It has been a tough start to the

2018/19 season following the success of last season, reaching the quarter finals of the London Youth Games. Nevertheless, despite losing all three games so far, we are positive results will start to improve. Notable performers this season have been Kyrone, Basit and Jadane.

## Sportswoman of the Term

Adrianna has continued to be a dedicated member of the rowing team.

Her hard work and training has led her to win the West London round of the London Youth Rowing indoor competition.

In addition, Adrianna came second in a 500m challenge against all the schools working and training with Fulham Reach Boat Club. This means that she has qualified to race virtually against a Boat Club in New York in January – an amazing achievement. ■



## Sportsman of the Term

Florian has been committed to both football and basketball Session 3 clubs attending both on a regular basis.

He has played an integral role for both teams in fixtures, becoming a solid left sided footballer.

In the basketball league he emerged as MVP for the team, topping this off by scoring 18 points in his last game.

We are looking forward to seeing Florian develop further in 2019. ■





Sports Day 200m race winners celebrate their victory at the Linford Christie Sports Ground.

## Year 7 Football (Boys)

Although Year 7 have yet to kick-off their league campaign in the QPR League, there is plenty of optimism for this team. This has been confirmed by our early pre-season form, where Xavier (4 Goals), Erion (2 Goals) and Jack (2 Goals) all contributed in a 19 goal thriller against BDA. We have been thoroughly impressed with their attitude towards training and look forward to this season with Year 7.

## Year 9 Football (Boys)

Year 9 started their QPR League season against a strong Hurlingham team. Despite going 2-0 down inside 20 minutes, the boys showed immense character and desire to comeback, with goals coming from Stanley and Abdisalam just before Half-Time.

Abdisalam proved a menace in attack for HA and looked to have turned provider for Elyas, but his effort hit the bar. HA had numerous chances in the second half, including a fantastic chance for Shuaib Ali, but were unable to find the net. Unfortunately, against the run of play, Hurlingham managed to score a late winner to leave the boys gutted. Nevertheless, a positive start to the season!

## England Rugby All Schools Programme

This year 120 students from Year 7 and Year 8 have had access to top level rugby coaching from England Rugby.

Each week they have trained on a brand new 4G pitch at Chiswick Rugby Club. The Year 8 girls team have been successful in winning a tournament to become borough champions.

We beat BDA 3 tries to 1 and then beat Hurlingham 6 tries to 2. We have now qualified for the London Youth Games finals! Mr Beattie, Head of PE, said "I was so impressed with the girls! Some good hard rugby was played! This is the first piece of success for us as a school as a result of the programme – let's hope there is more to come!"

## Netball (Girls)

A core group of Year 8 and 9 girls have been attending netball practice every Friday morning and working hard to develop their skills. The Year 8 team took part in the Hammersmith and Fulham Borough netball tournament and were fantastic! The girls showed fantastic reciprocity and resilience and their netball skills improved with every match. The girls are hoping to improve their skills further with more matches in the

coming weeks. Well done and keep up the hard work!

## U14 & U16 Basketball (Girls)

The Year 9 and 10 girls took part in the Hammersmith and Fulham Borough basketball tournament at Sacred Heart School. Both teams played four games each, which resulted in the Year 9 team finishing third in their competition and the Year 10 team finishing second in their competitions. Well done to all the girls who took part!

## Rowing

The rowing team have been to a couple of competitions this term, both on and off the water. Our Year 11 boys went down to Fulham Reach and beat Fulham Boys School by 3 races to 1. The coaches at Fulham Reach were incredibly impressed with how the boys rowed. Indoors, the rowing team had a very successful competition at the Hammersmith and Fulham Indoor Rowing competition with 11 medals won! Special mention to Lucca and Adrianna who won the boys' and girls' Year 10 race against some tough competition. An amazing achievement for the whole team and we are excited to see what the rest of the season will bring! ■

Follow Sports on Twitter  
 @HA\_Sport

# SPORTS DAY 2018



Zainab and Leo from Lovelace House with the Sports Day trophy.

**SPORTS DAY WAS A FIERCELY CONTESTED AFFAIR BETWEEN THE FOUR HOUSES ON WHAT WAS ONE OF THE SUNNIEST DAYS OF THE YEAR.**

## Sports Day House Winners:

1st Place: Lovelace

2nd Place: Berners-Lee

3rd Place: Gates

4th Place: Tesla

The final sporting event of the school year saw the whole Academy travel down to the Linford Christie Sports Centre in July.

Sports Day sees the school divided into their Houses and competing for the final set of points of the academic year.

This year's competitors were a very strong set of athletes with numerous school records being broken by girls and boys in both field and track events.

## Year 7 New Records

- Naomi Lawrence broke the Year 7 Shot Put record throwing 6m 78cm.
- Sara Okwara Brambilla jumped 3m 85cm in the Long Jump.

## Year 8 New Records

- Erica Kemp ran 28.00s in the 200m and 48.28s 300m.
- Noor-Eldin Mahmoud ran 12.58s in the 100m.

## Year 9 New Records

- Tia Jackson-Quigley ran 13.44s in the 100m and 27.97s in the 200m.
- Lilith Nelson ran 3m 06s in the 800m.
- Ayni Warsame threw 14m 90s in the Javelin.
- Tawheed Hayati ran 200m in 25.75s.

## Year 10 New Records

- Kairon Millington ran 200m in 25.40s.
- Leo Smaci ran 800m in 2m16s.

Congratulations to all the winners. ■

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